

What is claimed is:

SUB A2

1. An image retrieving and delivering system, comprising:
a data base for registering each of a plurality of images
including a moving picture and a static picture with a
5 feature descriptor of the image;

image retrieving means for retrieving one feature
descriptor registered in the data base according to a
retrieval condition input by a user and obtaining a
retrieval result satisfying the retrieval condition; and

- 10 contents additional service means for editing and
processing the retrieval result according to a delivery
condition obtained from a user terminal side on which the
retrieval result is to be received.

- 15 2. An image retrieving and delivering system according
to claim 1, wherein the contents additional service means
comprises terminal information obtaining means for
obtaining terminal information of the user terminal as the
delivery condition.

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3. An image retrieving and delivering system according
to claim 1, wherein the contents additional service means
produces data, which relates to the retrieval result and
of which the reception in the user terminal is possible,
25 according to the delivery condition specified by the user
and transmits the data to the user terminal before the
transmission of the retrieval result.

SUB A3

4. An image retrieving and delivering system according
30 to claim 1, further comprising:

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contents description meta-data producing means for extracting a feature degree of each of a plurality of input images and format information of the input image and producing the feature descriptor of each input image; and

5 data storing unit for registering each feature descriptor produced by the contents description meta-data producing means and the input image relating to the feature descriptor in the data base.

10 5. An image retrieving and delivering system according to claim 2, wherein the contents additional service means comprises:

15 converting means for converting an image format and an output format in the image of the retrieval result into those suitable for the terminal information of the user terminal;

filtering means for performing no transmission of the retrieval result which does not suit the terminal information; or

20 replacing means for replacing the retrieval result not suitable for the terminal information with substitutive data suitable for the terminal information.

25 6. An image retrieving and delivering system according to claim 2, wherein the contents additional service means transmits the retrieval result, which is not edited or processed, to another terminal specified by the user in advance when the retrieval result is edited and processed according to the terminal information of the user terminal.

7. An image retrieving and delivering system according to claim 5, wherein the contents additional service means comprises a plurality of editing means for respectively editing and processing the retrieval result not suitable for the terminal information of the user terminal, and the plurality of editing means are properly selectable in one of an image retrieval requiring side, an image retrieval performing side and a contents providing side on which the images are registered in the data base.

8. An image retrieving and delivering system according to claim 5, wherein the image format includes at least one of a coding method of the image of the retrieval result, a bit rate, a frame rate, a resolution degree and a file size.

9. An image retrieving and delivering system according to claim 3, wherein the contents additional service means produces the data, which relates to the retrieval result and of which the reception in the user terminal is possible, according to copyright information and/or a distribution condition of the image of the retrieval result.

10. An image retrieving and delivering system, comprising:

a data base for registering each of a plurality of images including a moving picture and a static picture with a feature descriptor of the image;

image retrieving means for retrieving one feature descriptor registered in the data base according to a

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retrieval condition input by a user and obtaining a retrieval result satisfying the retrieval condition;

output control means for transmitting the retrieval result and the feature descriptor relating to the retrieval result to a user terminal; and

contents description meta-data analyzing means, arranged in the user terminal, for analyzing the feature descriptor transmitted from the output control means and determining whether or not the retrieval result is to be received.

11. An image retrieving and delivering method, comprising:

an image retrieving step of retrieving a feature descriptor of an image registered in a data base according to a retrieval condition input by a user and obtaining a retrieval result satisfying the retrieval condition; and

a contents additional service step of editing and processing the retrieval result according to a delivery condition obtained from a user terminal side on which the retrieval result is to be received.

12. An image retrieving and delivering method according to claim 11, wherein the contents additional service step includes a step of obtaining terminal information of the user terminal as the delivery condition.

13. An image retrieving and delivering method according to claim 11, wherein the contents additional service step includes a step of producing data, which relates to the

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retrieval result and of which the reception in the user terminal is possible, according to the delivery condition specified by the user and a step of transmitting the data to the user terminal before the transmission of the
5 retrieval result.

30B A5> 14. An image retrieving and delivering method according to claim 11, further comprising:

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10 a contents description meta-data producing step of extracting a feature degree of the image and format information of the image when the image is input and producing the feature descriptor; and

15 a data storing step of registering the feature descriptor produced in the contents description meta-data producing step and the input image in the data base.

20 15. An image retrieving and delivering method according to claim 12, wherein the contents additional service step includes at least one of a converting step of converting an image format and an output format in the image of the retrieval result into those suitable for the terminal information of the user terminal, a filtering step of performing no transmission of the retrieval result which does not suit the terminal information, and a replacing
25 step of replacing the retrieval result not suitable for the terminal information with substitutive data suitable for the terminal information.

30 16. An image retrieving and delivering method according to claim 12, wherein the contents additional service step

includes a step of transmitting the retrieval result, which is not edited or processed, to another terminal specified by the user in advance when the retrieval result is edited and processed according to the terminal information of the user terminal.

17. An image retrieving and delivering method according to claim 13, wherein the contents additional service step includes a step of producing the data, which relates to the retrieval result and of which the reception in the user terminal is possible, according to copyright information and/or a distribution condition of the image of the retrieval result.

18. An image retrieving and delivering method, comprising:

an image retrieving step of retrieving a feature descriptor of an image registered in a data base according to a retrieval condition input by a user and obtaining a retrieval result satisfying the retrieval condition;

an output control step of transmitting the retrieval result and the feature descriptor relating to the retrieval result to a user terminal; and

a contents description meta-data analyzing step of analyzing the feature descriptor transmitted in the output control step and determining on the user terminal side whether or not the retrieval result is to be received.

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